

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

In the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged applicants' provisional election of Group II, consisting of claims 11-16, 22-23 and 28-29 and election of species -- claim 14. The Examiner asks applicant to make clear whether the election is with or without traverse. The Examiner then contends that applicants' response was not complete as applicant purportedly failed to elect a species from the group of claims consisting of claims 12-13 and failed to elect a species from a group of claims consisting of claims 14-15. Now the Examiner has revised his restriction requirement and is directing the applicants to elect from the group consisting of claims 12-13.

Applicant's Reply

First, applicants point out that they stated several times that elections made in response to the restriction requirement were with traverse (*See, e.g.*, April 13, 2006 Reply to Third Restriction Requirement at page 3 ("Applicants traverse the restriction requirement and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement" and page 4, "Furthermore, to provide a complete response to the Office Action, with respect to the species election requirement set forth by the Examiner, applicants hereby provisionally elect, with traverse, claim 14.")).

For this restriction requirement, applicants provisionally elect *with traverse* species claim 13. The reasons for traversal have already been set out in applicants previous response to the prior three restriction requirements. As already stated, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of Groups I-V should be examined together as they share a relationship involving the recording of assent by a party to a transaction, proposition, or contract, and because it would not present an unreasonable task for, or place an undue burden on, the Examiner for searching purposes to examine the claims of Groups I-V together. For example, transaction identifiers are recited in both the claims of Group I and the claims of Group II. Moreover, while the claims of Group I do not require the relying party to associate the transaction identifier with the transaction, as the claims of Group II do, this distinction is not one that would place an undue

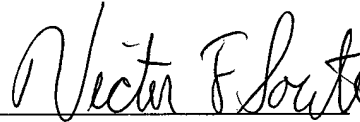
burden on the Examiner for searching purposes. As another example, while the claims of Groups I, IV and V relate to the recording of consent to a transaction, proposition, and contract, respectively, these Groups should be examined together as this distinction would not place an undue burden on the Examiner for searching purposes. Moreover, applicants respectfully contend that, given the commonality of the subject matter, an undue burden would not be placed on the Examiner to include each of claims 12-15 in the search instead of limiting the search to claim 13.

Authorization

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees due, or credit any overpayment, in connection with this case to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 3, 2006

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